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Copy of a letter sent to the Heads of the delegations to the U.N.O. Assembly, to the President of the Assembly, the President of the Security Council and to Mr. Jebb, the Acting Secretary General of U.N.O.

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COUNCIL OF POLISH POLITICAL PARTIES



74, Cornwall Gardens, S.W.7.

London, 25th January, 1946.

Sir,

The preamble of the Charter of the United Nations states that a new international organisation has been established "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." The United Nations had determined "to reaffirm /their/ faith in . . . the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights . . . of nations large and small and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained . . ."

But, notwithstanding these solemn declarations, and in violation of all principles on which the postwar order and the peaceful relations between nations were to be built, the Polish nation—after the victory over the common enemy—is again enslaved.

In Poland lawlessness rules supreme. Human dignity is trampled upon. There is no true freedom of religion, of conscience or of opinion. There is no independent judicature. There is no freedom of speech, of the press, of association or of meetings. There is no security for the individual. The whole of Poland suffers under the totalitarian yoke which has been imposed upon the Polish nation by foreign intervention, and this regime does not totter only because the country is occupied by a foreign army and is ruled by a ruthless police regime.

The worthiest sons of Poland—the men who had built the underground Polish state and had fought the Germans for five long years in the ranks of the Polish Home Army—and every class of her population: peasants, workers, the middle class and the intellectuals, the very core of Polish democracy—are subjected to systematic persecution. The education of the younger generation, based on models which are alien to Polish traditions and her national spirit, aims clearly at remoulding our youth into soulless robots of the present regime.

Economically Poland is subjected to a system of ruthless exploitation in the interests of the war potential of an alien power. Her people live in wretched poverty which is in striking and irritating contrast with the comparatively high standards of life allotted to those who agree to serve as the tools of the present regime. The inclusion of Poland into the orbit of the U.S.S.R. has made her a mere province in the vast area of Soviet closed economy and severed all her links with the free markets of the world. A similar fate has been meted out to many other countries of Central Europe.

Fear and hatred have become the guiding principles of the present system of government in Poland. The men who are in control of our destinies keep themselves in power by means of a rule of terror, which takes the form of mass arrests, confinement of thousands of people in prisons and concentration camps, executions and "mysterious disappearance" of many men and women who are inconvenient to the regime.

The Provisional Government imposed on Poland has renounced—against the clear will of the Polish nation—almost one half of her national territory, with eleven millions of population, and it has agreed to recognise her Eastern frontier as final at a time when the postwar territorial settlement in Europe is not determined yet.

Thus, on the morrow of common victory, Poland, the staunchest and most faithful ally, has been given a very raw deal, actually much worse than that which has been given to defeated enemy powers. As a result of the war Poland has lost not only half of her pre-war territory which for centuries had formed a part of her national home—she has also lost her very independence. This, in spite of the immense and well-known sacrifices which she has borne in the common struggle and the fate meted out to her is the crowning proof that all the ideals for which the war was fought have been betrayed and brushed aside.

Poland fought at first alone her battle for her independence and very existence and later by the side of her Allies. She never wavered, irrespective of whether her Allies were in a position to come to her assistance or not. When the whole of Poland was occupied by the enemy forces the Polish soldiers fought on in France and Norway. After the collapse of France, when Britain was left alone to resist German might, the Polish armed forces made their way to the British Isles, to continue the battle by the side of the only free country which was still at war against Germany. This was at a time when some powers who later found themselves in the camp of the United Nations were still neutral, while others were even giving every aid and assistance to the German aggressors.

At that time, too, the Polish Home Army, the largest underground force in the world, acting under the direction and guidance of the Polish Government in London, was continuing its sacrificial struggle in Poland itself, and immobilised large enemy forces there, fighting the aggressor simultaneously with the Polish Armed Forces in Africa, Italy and Western Europe.

To enslave Poland or to concur in her enslavement is obviously a gross violation of all the principles of international morality and law, and of all the solemn declarations and treaties in force. The enslavement of Poland and of the whole of Central-Eastern Europe creates a vast centre of unrest and discontent which ultimately threatens the peace of the world. It would be an ill-omen for the start of the United Nations if conditions in direct contradiction to their pledged principles were permitted to be perpetuated.

An iron curtain now severs Poland from the world. It separates East and West, and bars the free exchange of news, cultural values and material goods.

The undersigned duly authorised representatives of the Chief Polish Political Parties, acting as spokesmen for the people of Poland, who in the present conditions are not free to speak for themselves, are thus forced to lodge a direct appeal to the United Nations. These are the main points:—

1/ The so-called Provisional Government of National Unity in Warsaw and its delegation to the United Nations General Assembly do not represent Poland at all.

2/ Poland will never renounce her will to independence, political, spiritual and economic, and her people will never relent in their efforts to recover their full independence and to decide their own fate.

3/ No lasting peace will be secured unless moral principles, the respect for the dignity of the individual and of the nation, justice and freedom are duly safeguarded and applied in practice, not merely in solemn declarations. The principles of democracy should be enforced both in the internal life of the various countries and in international relations.

No new world order can be built on the old foundations of violence, brute force and enslavement. No lasting peace can be built on the shifting basis of Great Powers politics.

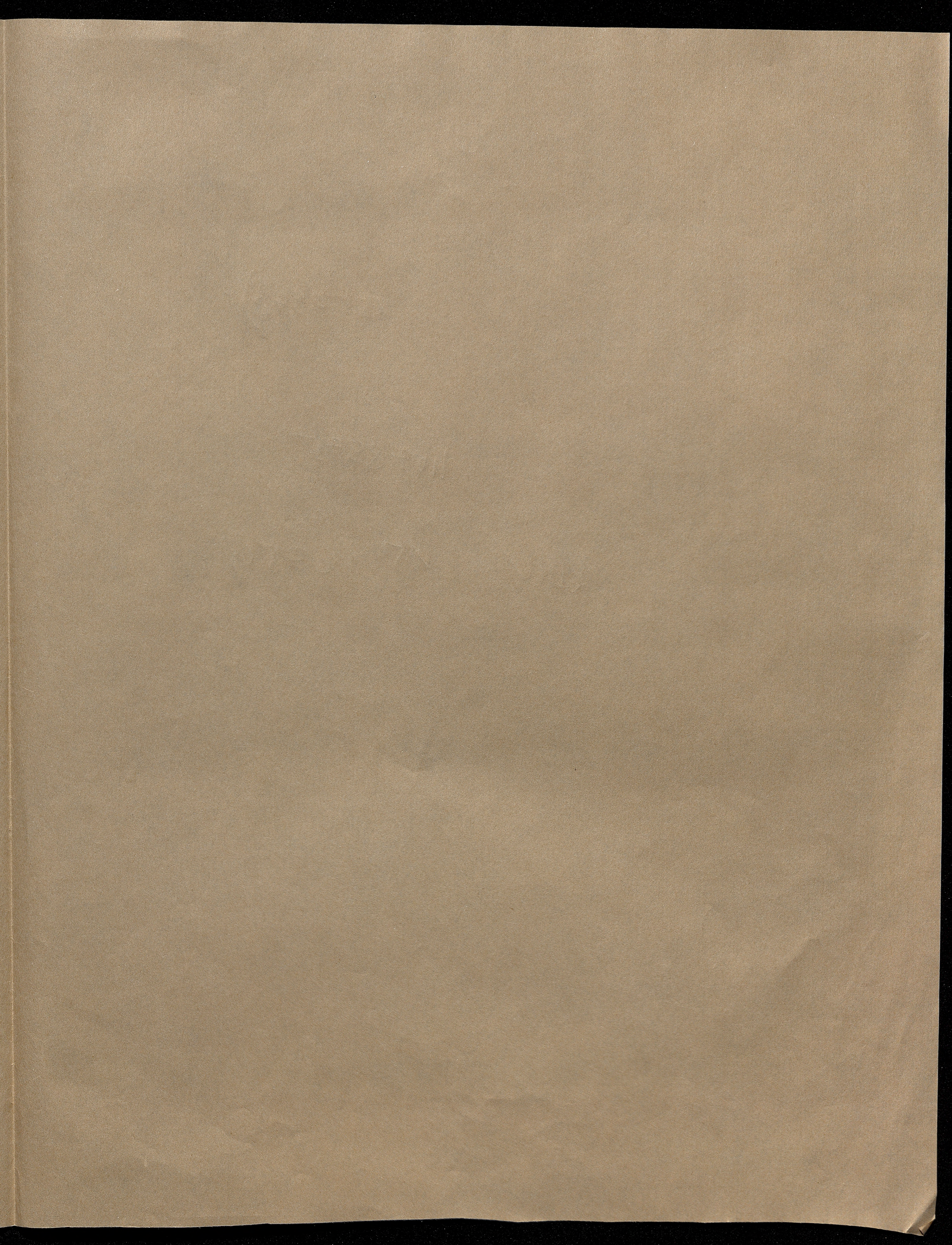
Poland, which to-day is enslaved and occupied by foreign forces, demands the restoration of her independence, in the name of the very principles on which the United Nations are built. Poland believes that the United Nations will not find it possible to pass over in silence her loss of independence and the enslavement of the country which was first to resist German aggression in the defence of her own freedom and of the liberty of the world.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants



/—/ Tadeusz Tomaszewski, for the Polish Socialist Party /Committee abroad/. /—/ Dr. Stanisław Olszewski, for the Democratic Party /Committee abroad/. /—/ Hugon Hanke, for the Christian Labour Party /Committee abroad/. /—/ Jerzy Kuncewicz, for the Peasant Party "Freedom." /—/ Dr. Tadeusz Bielecki, for the National Democratic Party.



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